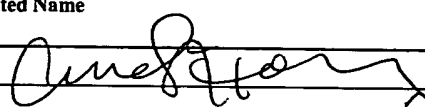


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03/18/03

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I hereby certify that the correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.		
Typed or Printed Name		Cindy Hoang
Signature 		Date 2/25/03
<b>RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT</b>  Address to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Washington, D.C. 20231	Application No.	09/988,494
	Confirmation No.	8555
	Filing Date	November 20, 2001
	First Named Inventor	Ouyang
	Examiner	R. Davis
	Group Art Unit	1651
	Docket No.	LIFE-040
	Title: STABILIZED TETRAZOLIUM-PHENAZINE REAGENT COMPOSITIONS AND METHODS FOR USING THE SAME	

Sir:

This is in response to the Restriction Requirement dated February 4, 2003. The Examiner therein required election of one of the following groups of claims:

- Group I: Claims 1-10, drawn to a composition;
- Group II: Claims 11-17, drawn to a test strip;
- Group III: Claim 18, drawn to a measurement system;
- Group IV: Claims 19-23, drawn to a method for detecting analyte concentration;
- Group V: Claims 24-27, drawn to a kit; and
- Group VI: Claims 28-32 drawn to a method for stabilizing a composition.

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Applicants hereby elect to prosecute the claims of Group I, claims 1-10, with traverse. As stated in the MPEP §803, if search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions. It is Applicants' position that it would not be unduly burdensome to perform a search on claims 1-32 together. Accordingly, Applicants traverse the restriction requirement.

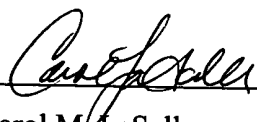
Applicants expressly reserve the right under 35 USC §121 to file a divisional application directed to the non-elected subject matter or any subject matter disclosed in this application during the pendency of this application.

Atty Dkt. No.: LIFE-040  
Client Ref. No.: LFS-149  
USSN: 09/988,494

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required by this paper, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-0815, order number LIFE-040.

Respectfully submitted,  
BOZICEVIC, FIELD & FRANCIS LLP

Date: 2/25/03

By:   
Carol M. LaSalle  
Registration No. 39,740

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1651

PTO/SB/21 (08-00)  
Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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<b>TRANSMITTAL FORM</b> <small>(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)</small>		Application Number	09/988,494
		Filing Date	November 20, 2001
		First Named Inventor	OUYANG, TIANMEI
		Group Art Unit	1651
		Examiner Name	DAVIS, RUTH A.
Total Number of Pages in This Submission	Attorney Docket Number	LIFE-040	
<b>ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached <input type="checkbox"/> Amendment / Reply <input type="checkbox"/> After Final <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request <input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Documents <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts/Incomplete Application <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53	<input type="checkbox"/> Assignment Papers (for an Application) <input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers <input type="checkbox"/> Petition <input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation Change of Correspondence Address <input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund <input type="checkbox"/> CD, Number of CD(s) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to Group <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Group (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) <input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information <input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) (please identify below): 1) Response to Restriction Requirement (2 pgs.) 2) Return Postcard	
Remarks			
<b>SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT</b>			
Signing Attorney/Agent (Reg. No.)	CAROL M. LASALLE (REG. NO. 39,740) BOZICEVIC, FIELD & FRANCIS LLP		
Signature			
Date	February 25, 2003		

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Typed or printed name	Cindy Kim Hoang
Signature	
Date	February 25, 2003

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